



Annual Conference

**Minnesota Guardian Ad Litem Program
Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3, 2009
Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel Events Center
Prior Lake, Minnesota**



**Minnesota Judicial Branch
Office of the State Court Administrator
Court Services Division**



Conference Theme: When guardians ad litem advocate for the best interests of children, they are in some sense helping to build pathways to the future for those children. Even in times of greater resources, this is a difficult challenge. In today's world, this challenge is at times seemingly insurmountable. The conference planning committee chose this theme—Building Pathways For Children In A Changing World--and the various topics and speakers this year with a clear understanding that advocating for children in today's world with scarce resources and overwhelming pressures has become more difficult but more vital than ever. This year's speakers promise to inform and illuminate what's on the horizon so Minnesota's guardians ad litem may enhance their advocacy when serving the state's abused and neglected children in the courts.

Building Pathways For Children In A Changing World Conference Schedule

**Thursday,
April 2, 2009**

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Silent Auction, Conference Clothes Shopping
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Welcome and Announcements —Tami Baker-Olson, First Judicial District GAL Program Manager, and Laurie Kusek, Fourth Judicial District GAL Program Manager, Conference Co-Chairs; Mark Toogood, State Guardian Ad Litem Program Manager
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Morning Plenary Keynote: Building Pathways For Children In A Changing World —Anne Gearity, Ph.D., LICSW, Center for Early Education and Development, University of Minnesota
10:45 – 11 a.m.	Morning Break, Silent Auction Bidding, Conference Clothes Shopping
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. J = Juvenile Court Focus F = Family Court Focus JF = Applicable to both FDTC = Family Dependency Treatment Courts	ROUND ONE Breakout Sessions—Pick One: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Breakout No. JF1—Hard To Believe: Munchausen By Proxy Syndrome (nonrepeating session)—Dr. Carolyn Levitt, Medical Director, Midwest Children's Resource Center, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Munchausen by proxy syndrome (MBPS) is a relatively uncommon condition that involves the exaggeration or fabrication of illnesses or symptoms by a primary caretaker. It is considered one of the most harmful forms of child abuse. Learn about how MBPS is diagnosed, its causes, and considerations for GAL practice. Breakout No. JF2—Healing From the Trauma Of Sex Abuse: Reunifying Sex Abuse Victims With Their Families—Timothy Wright, Psy. D., Clinical Director, Child and Adolescent Services, Project Pathfinder

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When GALs are serving on cases where sex abuse victims are reunified with their aggressor, it can be difficult to sort out best interests. This session will address GAL concerns and questions about how to advocate for children in this situation, including the resiliency of sex abuse victims and their ability to heal. <p>3. Breakout No. JF3—They’re Still My Family: Reunifying Physical Abuse Victims With Their Families— Vicki Nauschultz, MEq/LP, Midwest Children’s Resource Center, Children’s Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to national data, physical abuse is more common than sex abuse. This session will incorporate interactive activities to allow GALs to explore considerations when advocating for physical abuse victims. The overlap with sex abuse will be discussed and distinguished. <p>4. Breakout No. J4—The Hope Of Family Preservation: What Should GALs Know?—Robert O’Connor, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Metropolitan State University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family preservation is a broad term that can encompass a host of services and programs or reference a DHS or federal funding stream but what is at the heart of this concept? What does family preservation really mean and what should GALs know about it when working with social services agencies and making recommendations for children? How does it relate to family strengths, father involvement, or sibling separation? This session will explore these questions and more. <p>5. Breakout No. JF5— GAL As Petitioner: Filing A CHIPS or Permanency Petition— Rights, Responsibilities, And Implications—Ann Ahlstrom and Judy Nord, Staff Attorneys and Co-Managers, Children’s Justice Initiative, State Court Administrator’s Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years, GALs across Minnesota have found it to be in the best interests of a child to file a CHIPS or permanency petition in the course of either a family or juvenile court case. While statutes and rules establish the right of the GAL to file petitions, they do not always offer much guidance about those rights and the responsibilities incumbent upon the GAL when they file a petition. This session will serve to address these issues and provide attendees with practical guidance for this unique situation. <p>6. Breakout No. JF6— Restorative Parenting: Healing and Rebuilding Relationships In the Aftermath Of Domestic Violence—David Mathews, Psy.D., LICSW, Minnesota Domestic Abuse Project</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session explores the concept of reunification therapy as a tool for families that have experienced domestic violence or intimate partner violence. The approach suggests that all stakeholders involved in the family's situation consider healing and rebuilding relationships as part of reunification. Basic dynamics of intimate partner violence as well as promising practices for addressing it will be presented. <p>7. Breakout No. F7—Moving Toward Family Court Practice Standards: An Interactive Feedback Session (nonrepeating session)—Mark Toogood, State GAL Program Manager, State Court Administrator's Office, and Andrea Niemi, Attorney, Private Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice standards have been proposed or adopted by various stakeholder groups involved in family court. Is it time for practice standards for GALs in family court in Minnesota? Your input and feedback about the development of GAL practice standards for family court is essential. Learn what adopting practice standards would mean for Minnesota's GALs in family court and offer your insights and opinions. <p>8. Breakout No. JF8—Preparing For and Testifying In Court For GALs: A Primer—Samantha Gemberling, Attorney, Private Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GALs in Minnesota have been asking for guidance on preparing for and testifying in court for many years. Here is your chance to learn the basics and important tips from an experienced attorney (attorneys in the afternoon session) who is very familiar with the role of the GAL. <p>9. Breakout No. JF9—Access To Information Review and Update: HIPAA Compliance And Beyond—Resa Gilats, GAL Program Analyst, State GAL Program, State Court Administrator's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although HIPAA has now been around for several years, GALs still occasionally encounter objections based on HIPAA when trying to access information. Additionally, GALs are often asked to provide information even though they are trained to be information gatherers not information givers. A framework for analyzing access requests will be presented as well as a very thorough review of the HIPAA-compliant elements of a consent form. A sample form will be provided. There will also be time for questions. <p>10. Breakout No. FDTCTC10—Understanding the Role Of the GAL In FDTCTCs—Judy Peterson, GAL Program Manager, Second Judicial District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Dependency Treatment Courts offer GALs a whole new way of being part of the child protection
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	<p>system. Some aspects of this changing role can be difficult particularly given the charge of a GAL to be the child's strongest advocate. This session will provide an opportunity for GALs who are part of a FDTC to explore their changing role with one another. When am I a GAL first? When am I a team member first? Please plan to bring examples from your cases. Interested GALs who are not part of a FDTC team are also welcome.</p>
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch, Announcements
1:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Judges Panel – Perspectives From the Bench —Judge Kevin Eide, First Judicial District; Wally Senyk, Seventh Judicial District; and Alan Pendleton, Tenth Judicial District
2:45 – 3 p.m.	Afternoon Break, Silent Auction Bidding, Conference Clothes Shopping
3 – 4:30 p.m. J = Juvenile Court Focus F = Family Court Focus JF = Applicable to both FDTC = Family Dependency Treatment Courts	<p>ROUND TWO Breakout Sessions – Pick One:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Breakout No. JF11—Healing From the Trauma Of Sex Abuse: Reunifying Sex Abuse Victims With Their Families—Timothy Wright, Psy. D., Clinical Director, Child and Adolescent Services, Project Pathfinder, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session; see morning description. 12. Breakout No. JF12—They're Still My Family: Reunifying Physical Abuse Victims With Their Families—Vicki Nauschultz, MEq/LP, Midwest Children's Resource Center, Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session; see morning description. 13. Breakout No. J13—The Hope Of Family Preservation: What Should GALs Know?—Robert O'Connor, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Metropolitan State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session; see morning description. 14. Breakout No. JF14—GAL As Petitioner: Filing A CHIPS or Permanency Petition—Rights, Responsibilities, And Implications—Ann Ahlstrom and Judy Nord, Staff Attorneys and Co-Managers, Children's Justice Initiative, State Court Administrator's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session; see morning description. 15. Breakout No. JF15—Restorative Parenting: Healing and Rebuilding Relationships In the Aftermath Of Domestic Violence—David Mathews, Psy.D., LICSW, Minnesota Domestic Abuse Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session; see morning description. 16. Breakout No. JF16—Preparing For and Testifying In Court For GALs: A Primer—Samantha Gemberling, Attorney, Private Practice, and Marian Saksena, Attorney, Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session; see morning description. Marian Saksena joins Ms. Gemberling for the afternoon session. 17. Breakout No. JF17—Access To Information Review and Update:

	<p>HIPAA Compliance And Beyond—Resa Gilats, GAL Program Analyst, State GAL Program, State Court Administrator’s Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeating session, see morning description. <p>18. Breakout No. FDTC18—Understanding the Goals and Objectives Of FDTCs—Brigid Murphy, Stearns County FDTC Coordinator, and Emily Schug, Collaborative Coordinator, Dakota County Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most important goals and objectives of a FDTC? How are they different from the traditional system? As a GAL how can I best support the success of the team? Interested GALs who are not part of a FDTC team are also welcome.
4:30 – 6 p.m.	Appreciation Reception

*****Appreciation Reception*****

The conference planning committee and GAL Program Managers invite all conference attendees to an Appreciation Reception to acknowledge and say thanks for all the hard work you have provided on behalf of Minnesota’s abused and neglected children. The committee has planned an uplifting reception highlighted by a children’s choir and delicious non-alcoholic beverages and hors d’oeuvres. The reception will begin immediately after the final breakout session on Thursday in the Events Center pre-function area overlooking the Mystic Lake golf course. A brief program is planned for 5 p.m.

FACULTY FOR THURSDAY

Ann Ahlstrom—Ann works for the Minnesota State Court Administrator’s Office as a Staff Attorney and Co-Manager for the Children’s Justice Initiative. Prior to joining the State Court Administrator’s Office, she worked for the Minnesota Department of Human Services helping to implement the Adoption and Safe Families Act and Title IV-E., as a Hennepin County Assistant County Attorney representing the Hennepin County child protection agency in CHIPS and permanency cases, and as a Hennepin County Public Defender representing indigent clients involved in felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases.

Hon. Kevin Eide—Judge Eide presides in Carver County in the First Judicial District. He was appointed January 2001 and elected in November 2002 and 2008. His current term expires in January 2015. Judge Eide is the primary trainer for the Judicial Branch’s New Judge Orientation on the topic of using guardians ad litem. He also serves as Chair of the Juvenile Protection Rules Committee. He also recently chaired the Joint Physical Custody Study Group.

Anne Gearity—Dr. Gearity is a clinical social worker in independent practice, as well as a consultant to community programs and adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. Anne is also the principal consultant for Washburn Child Guidance Center’s day treatment program in Minneapolis, MN, where she is working with staff on developing a treatment intervention model for young children at serious risk due to trauma and attachment

disruption. Anne has been involved with infant mental health initiatives since the 1970's and received a Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work from the Institute for Clinical Social work in Chicago. She is a field associate for the University's Center for Early Education and Development.

Samantha Gemberling—Samantha is an attorney in private practice in St. Paul. Her practice has focused extensively on both juvenile and family court matters. More recently, Samantha has added parenting consulting to her array of services. Prior to private practice she served as a public defender representing both juveniles and parents in child protection cases. She also served on the attorney panel in Hennepin County representing guardians ad litem in juvenile court.

Resa Gilats—Resa serves as training director for the State Guardian Ad Litem Program. In this role, she develops and administers four training programs under the GAL System Program Standards and the annual state GAL conference, as well as other training programs as needed. She also provides technical assistance to GAL Managers, GAL Coordinators, and GALs regarding statutes, rules, and procedures in juvenile and family court cases. Resa served as management analyst and lead staff for the Commission on Families in the Colorado Courts from 2000-2002. She also taught Strategic Planning for State Courts and Knowledge Management courses in the Master of Science in Legal Administration (MSLA) program at the University of Denver, College of Law. She earned the MSLA degree in 2001. From 1990 through May 1998, Resa administered William Mitchell College of Law's (WMCL) capstone skills course--the Legal Practicum. Resa graduated from WMCL in 1990.

Carolyn Levitt—Dr. Levitt is medical director of Midwest Children's Resource Center, Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. She received her medical education and training at the University of Minnesota and is the author of several articles about child physical and sexual abuse. She has been an expert witness in Munchausen by proxy syndrome court cases. Her specialties are pediatrics and child abuse.

David Mathews—Dr. Mathews is Director of Therapy for the Minnesota Domestic Abuse Project (DAP). The Domestic Abuse Project was founded in 1979; the first of its kind in Minnesota, in response to women's request for help to end the violence, not their relationship. To this end, DAP has always provided a unique continuum of care - from immediate crisis intervention through long-term behavior change for every member of the family. Under David's direction, DAP runs a successful Men's Program. David is also a presenter in the state GAL Program domestic violence training program.

Brigid Murphy—Brigid has been the drug court coordinator in Stearns County for both the adult and family dependency courts. She also serves as the district drug court coordinator for the Seventh Judicial District. She is also an attorney.

Vicki Nauschultz—Vicki is a child psychologist with the Midwest Children's Resource Center, Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota, which provides outpatient services for children ages 3 through 17. Her specialty is child abuse. Vicki has provided group consultations for guardians ad litem, fielding very tough questions related to children.

Andrea Niemi—Andrea is an attorney in private practice since 1981 and has a broad range of experience in family and juvenile law. She received her B.A. from Macalester College and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law. She limits her practice to family and juvenile law, focusing exclusively on alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and parenting consulting and collaborative law. She is a past President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Friends of Children Foundation and the Collaborative Law Institute. She is a frequent lecturer at various national and state continuing legal education seminars, and recently served as an observer-commentator for the National Commission on Uniform State Laws in drafting proposed uniform legislation regarding the representation of children in child protection and custody disputes.

Judy Nord— Judy has served as a Staff Attorney with the Minnesota Judicial Branch since 1995. In addition to serving as Manager of the Children’s Justice Initiative, she staffs the Minnesota Supreme Court Juvenile Protection Rules Committee and Adoption Rules Subcommittee. She has staffed numerous other Supreme Court committees and task forces, including the Advisory Committee on the Expedited Child Support Process Rules, the Visitation and Child Support Enforcement Task Force, the Guardian Ad Litem Task Force and Rules Committee, and the Pro Se Implementation Committee. Ms. Nord drafts court rules, proposed legislation, and policies and procedures relating to judicial system initiatives, and provides training to state and national groups and organizations on topics relating to children and families. Prior to her work with the Minnesota Supreme Court, Ms. Nord practiced law as a public defender and as a solo practitioner representing adult and child clients in dissolution, paternity, child protection, and juvenile delinquency matters. She also served as a guardian ad litem and attorney in family court and juvenile court matters.

Robert O’Connor-- Robert is an assistant professor in social work at Metro State University in St. Paul. He also consults on minority culture issues within the child protection system, specializing in, among other things, transracial adoption issues. He has been a presenter on these topics in the state and Second and Fourth Judicial District GAL pre-service training programs for several years, as well as at state and national conferences.

Hon. Alan Pendleton—Judge Pendleton presides in Anoka County in the Tenth Judicial District. He was appointed September 14, 1999, by Governor Jesse Ventura and elected in 2002 and 2008. His current term expires in January 2015. Judge Pendleton served as an Assistant County Attorney for Anoka County before being appointed to the bench and was in private practice a few years before that. Judge Pendleton helped pioneer the use of comprehensive multimedia computer generated closing arguments by incorporating the use of text, diagrams, photos, video playbacks, and sound recordings that included elements of re-enactments.

Judy Peterson-- Judy is currently the Manager of the GAL Program in the Second Judicial District. Prior to that, she was a GAL Manager in the First Judicial District and before her years in the First District served as GAL Coordinator in the Second Judicial District overseeing and serving on cases in both juvenile and family court. She also spent 14 years recruiting, training foster parents, and supervising therapeutic foster care placements with Family Alternatives. Ms. Peterson has presented numerous workshops over the years on the issues of foster parenting, diversity and guardian ad litem work.

Emily Schug—Emily Schug is a Collaborative Coordinator with Dakota County Social Services. She is responsible for managing inter-disciplinary work teams in the areas of child protection and children's mental health. Prior to working with Dakota County, Emily worked in the non-profit sector as a social worker. Emily has an undergraduate degree in Family Social Science and graduate degrees in Social Work and Public Policy from the University of Minnesota.

Marian Saksena—Marian Saksena is a shareholder with Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A. Marian assists clients and their families during times of transition, with a focus on promoting children's well-being. Prior to entering private practice, she represented children as a staff attorney at Children's Law Center of Minnesota and served as a guardian ad litem.

Hon. Wally Senyk—Judge Senyk is a district court judge in Otter Tail County in Minnesota's Seventh Judicial District. He was appointed to the bench in 1997. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota (J.D. 1979) (B.A. 1975). Before his appointment to the bench, he served as the Otter Tail County Attorney from 1989-1997. Judge Senyk serves as the Lead Judge for Otter Tail County's Children's Justice Initiative team and has served as the statewide Lead Judge for this statewide initiative between the Minnesota Judicial Branch and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Mark Toogood—Mark is the first manager of the Minnesota Judicial Branch State Guardian Ad Litem Program and now serves as both State GAL Program Manager and Manager of the Family Services Unit in the Court Services Division in the State Court Administrator's Office. He has shepherded and led the transition of the GAL Program as it has become state funded and administered by the judicial districts, a process that began in 2001. Mark has been a certified guardian ad litem trainer since 1997, and served as Senior Coordinator of Volunteers in the Hennepin County Guardian Ad Litem Program. He has also been an Assistant Manager in Children's Services Administration of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Mark earned his BA and MSW from the University of Minnesota.

Timothy Wright—Dr. Wright has worked with sexualized children, adolescents and their families for the last 19 years. Dr. Wright has provided treatment, evaluation, and consultation in a variety of settings including social service agencies, school districts, adoption centers, foster parent agencies, private practices and mental health clinics. He is currently the Clinical Director of Child and Adolescent Services for Project Pathfinder, Inc., a nonprofit agency that deals exclusively with issues of sexuality.



Please note these important dates:

Hotel reservations deadline—Thursday, March 19

Conference registration deadline—Friday, March 27

Conference—Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3



Friday,
April 3, 2009

8 – 9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8 – 9 a.m.	Optional GAL Program Update and Q&A With Mark Toogood, State GAL Program Manager —no preregistration required
8 – 10:30 a.m.	Final Silent Auction Bidding, Conference Clothes Shopping
9 – 9:15 a.m.	Announcements
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Morning Plenary Keynote: Raising Mediawise Kids: The Impact of Media On Children’s Behavior and Development In A Changing World —Erin Walsh, National Institute on Media and the Family
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break/Hotel Check Out
10:30 – 12 noon J = Juvenile Court Focus F = Family Court Focus JF = Applicable to both FDTC = Family Dependency Treatment Courts	<p>ROUND THREE Breakout Sessions—Pick One:</p> <p>19. Breakout No. J19—CHIPS 101: Building Upon Pre-service Training—Judy Nord, Staff Attorney, Co-Manager, Children’s Justice Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This session will review basic child welfare and child protection concepts, statutes, rules, and best practices. It’s an excellent opportunity for new GALs to reinforce and build upon what they learned in pre-service training. It’s also a great refresher for more experienced GALs. <p>20. Breakout No. J20—The New Voluntary Placement Statute: Review and Implications For GAL Practice—Ann Ahlstrom, Staff Attorney, Co-Manager, Children’s Justice Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary placements are now governed by this new law—Minn. Stat. 260D. This session will highlight the basics of the law and the most relevant information that GALs need to know. This session is essential for any GAL who is serving on voluntary placement cases or will be in the future. <p>21. Breakout No. J21—Transition Resources and Best Practices For Youth Aging Out Of Foster Care—Steve Vonderharr, Minnesota Department of Human Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guardians ad litem are frequently facing issues regarding services and plans for older children in care. Updates on the law, services, and programs will be provided. GALs will learn practical information that they can apply when advocating for youth aging out of the foster care system. <p>22. Breakout No. J22—Signs Of Safety: A Solution and Safety Oriented Approach To Child Protection Casework—Dan Koziolk, Child and Family Manager, Carver County Community Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This session will include a brief overview of Signs of Safety to describe the Assessment and Planning

	<p>Framework, how appreciative inquiry is used to strengthen practice, and how to develop safety plans and safety networks. The presentation will also include considerations for how GALs can help to strengthen safety plans and safety networks in cases where Signs of Safety is being used. The experience of Carver County in implementing Signs of Safety will be covered as well. This is a great opportunity for GALs to learn about Signs of Safety as this approach is being adopted by more and more counties throughout the state.</p> <p>23. Breakout No. JF23—Domestic Violence Update: The Wingspread Report—Nancy Ver Steegh, Professor of Law and Vice Dean, William Mitchell College of Law, and Liz Richards, Director of Advocacy and Systems Change, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing that the membership of their respective organizations represented contrasting perspectives, leaders from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) began meeting in 2004 with the hope of opening a productive dialogue about domestic violence for the ultimate benefit of children and families. As discussion progressed the two groups sought an invitation from the Johnson Foundation to hold a jointly sponsored working conference on child custody and domestic violence at the Foundation’s Wingspread facility. The Wingspread Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts took place in February of 2007. It brought together a working group of thirty-seven experienced practitioners and researchers to discuss ways to meet more effectively the needs of families experiencing domestic violence. In this breakout session, highlights from The Wingspread Report will be presented followed by discussion of its implications in Minnesota. <p>24. Breakout No. JF24—Working With Families From Culturally Diverse Communities—Moderator: Glenda Rooney, Professor, Department of Social Work, Augsburg College; Panelists: Evangelina Aguilar, GAL and Cultural Specialist, First Judicial District GAL Program; Antuana Belton, GAL Coordinator, Second Judicial District GAL Program, Esie Leoso, Child Protection ICWA Program Manager, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health; Neal Thao, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Metropolitan State University; Hassan Ugas, Caseworker, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health and Co-founder of The Center for Somali Family and Children’s Services</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This special program of panelists from diverse communities will provide GALs with information about the diverse communities with which we work as well as considerations to keep in mind when providing culturally sensitive GAL service. Panelists will each speak from their perspective and then will field questions from the attendees. <p>25. Breakout No. JF25—LGBTQ Youth In Care—Mary McGowan, Consultant—Education, Consultation and Therapeutic Services for Professionals, Families, and Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All youth need to be advocated for, respected and heard: this includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. There are many youth whose sexual orientation is overlooked or misunderstood either from lack of knowledge or myths. Extra tools are needed to deal with the discrimination they receive, both in the system and when they become adults in the community. Personal stories of youth who have suffered greatly for “coming out” will be discussed and a great video from youth in care will be viewed. <p>26. Breakout No. JF26—Native American Child Rearing Practices and Domestic Customs—Jacque Wilson, Urban Office Coordinator, Bois Forte Urban Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacque will be bringing her presentation from the state GAL Program ICWA training to this year’s annual conference. For those GALs who have not attended the current ICWA training or may not be required to attend it, this is an excellent opportunity to learn about Native American child rearing practices and domestic customs. Jacque shares information through a mix of demonstration, storytelling, and presentation tailored to the perspective of a GAL. <p>27. Breakout No. JF27—Defusing Difficult Situations—Mike Kutzke, M.S. and former police officer, Professional Training Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session combines features of Mike Kutzke’s Self-Protection and Personal Safety training program with his Emotional Intelligence training program. This session will be tailored to the experiences of GALs—you will come away with greater insight into situations requiring defusing and practical tips for managing these situations. <p>28. Breakout No. FDTC28—FDTCs 101—Everything You Wanted To Know About FDTCs But Were Afraid To Ask—Dan Griffin and Jim Eberspacher, Court Operations Analysts for Chemical Health, State Court Administrator’s Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Family Dependency Treatment Court? How is it different from the traditional system? What makes it so
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	effective? What are the most important characteristics of a FDTC for GALs to know? Interested GALs who are not part of FDTC teams are welcome to attend this introductory session.
12 noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch, Announcements, Silent Auction Top Bidders Announced
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Closing Plenary Keynote: Personal Style Goes To the Dogs: A Lighthearted Look At Lessons For Family Functioning—Paul Buckley, LMFT, My Strong Family
1:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Silent Auction Awards Announced

FACULTY FOR FRIDAY

Evangelina Aguilar—Evangelina is a GAL and Cultural Specialist in the First Judicial District. She has been an effective advocate for GALs when she presented to the Judicial Branch Guardian Ad Litem Advisory Committee, helping the Committee members to understand the realities of GAL practice. Evangelina is also a member of the 2009 GAL annual conference planning committee.

Ann Ahlstrom—See Thursday’s faculty.

Antuana Belton—Antuana is a GAL Coordinator in the Second Judicial District. Prior to becoming a GAL Coordinator, Antuana served as a Ramsey County caseworker and has extensive experience working with children and families. Antuana is also a trainer in the state’s GAL pre-service training that it administers collaboratively with the Second Judicial District GAL Program.

Paul Buckley—Paul maintains a counseling practice focused on foster care, adoption, teenagers, and parenting. Paul has presented regionally and nationally, including at local and national CASA events and for the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network (MARN) and the Minnesota Adoption Support and Preservation (MNASAP). He is well received and known for delivering information that is direct and applicable in an informative and entertaining manner.

Jim Eberspacher—Jim Eberspacher is a court analyst focused on drug courts at SCAO. Mr. Eberspacher served as the drug court coordinator for Koochiching County for three years before coming to SCAO in December of 2007. Previous to that he worked in probation for twelve years. He is an expert on drug courts, case management, and drug testing. He received his BA from Bemidji State University.

Dan Griffin—Dan is a Court Operations Analyst for Chemical Health at the Minnesota State Court Administrators Office. He is the state expert on chemical health issues and lead staff for drug courts for the Minnesota Judicial Branch since 2002. He also serves as primary staff for the Drug Court Initiative advisory committee, a multidisciplinary state body overseeing the expansion of drug courts in Minnesota. Dan has worked in several areas of chemical addiction and recovery: counseling, research, academia, and public advocacy. Dan received a B.A. in English and Sociology from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; an M.A. in Sociology

from the University of Kansas; he was awarded a fellowship and completed counselor training at the Hazelden Institute in 1999.

Dan Koziolk—Dan has worked for Carver County Community Social Services in Chaska as Child and Family Manager for the past eight years and for three years previously as a Child and Family Supervisor. He has also worked as a Child and Family Supervisor and Adult Protection Social Worker in Rice County and as a Foster Care Licensing Worker in Swift County. Dan has his MSW from the University of Minnesota and is a licensed clinical social worker.

Mike Kutzke—Mike is a fulltime faculty member at Ridgewater College in Willmar, Minnesota and an instructor at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. He has a M.S. in Social Sciences. He has also worked as a police officer for 17 years where his experiences included patrol, investigations, and administration. Mike has been professionally presenting training courses for over a decade in a wide-range of topic areas, taking pride in his ability to blend humor, information, and adult learning principles. Mike has provided safety training for Minnesota GALs for several years.

Esie Leoso—Esie has been involved in an array of activities that support American Indian people from education to environmental causes from social services to economic strategic plans. Her commitment to American Indian people spans over the past 32 years of service with government—tribal governments for the most part—as well as with various committees. Esie has been with Hennepin County two years.

Mary McGowan—Mary has many years of personal and professional experience—she has worked with the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) doing successful grass roots recruitment for foster and adoptive families. She has earned accolades as the National Education Manager for the Professional Association of Treatment Homes (PATH) and is an experienced trainer who teaches and consults locally and nationally. Mary has an undergraduate degree in psychology with minors in Community Violence Prevention and Child Development and has completed graduate work in Clinical Psychology and Counseling. She is also a guardian ad litem.

Judy Nord—See Thursday's faculty.

Liz Richards—Liz serves as the Director of Advocacy and Systems Change for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, which was founded in 1978 to serve as a unifying voice for battered women and to link battered women's programs in the state with the common purpose of ending domestic violence. MCBW is a statewide membership organization of local, regional, and statewide programs advocating on behalf of battered women and their children. Liz provides consultation and training services for the state GAL Program. She was in private practice as an attorney for many years before coming to the Coalition.

Glenda Rooney—Dr. Rooney's experience spans over twenty years in human service and higher education organizations. She has been involved in community based research and development projects, which included the design and development of the nationally recognized family reunification and permanency program for African American youth, and "Defining Neglect: A Community Perspective," a project of the Minneapolis Human Services Network. Dr. Rooney

has provided both clinical and management consultation and training in the metro area, in Taiwan, Ghana and The Netherlands. Dr. Rooney is also a LICSW.

Neal Thao—Dr. Thao is Chair of the Social Work Department at Metropolitan State University where he has been on the faculty for 11 years. He has also served in Ramsey County Human Services for 14 years as a child protection worker, delinquent specialist, and case manager for children with developmental delays. He received his Ed. D. from the University of Minnesota. He has been a community activist in the South East Asian Community since 1975.

Hassan Ugas—Hassan has a MSW from the University of Minnesota and was a Title IVE Child Welfare Scholar. His work history includes working as financial worker in Hennepin County for more than seven years and as a refugee worker. He is co-founder and director of the Center for Somali Families and Children's Services, which works with parents to improve parental effectiveness by providing a clear parenting philosophy and a set of positive parenting skills and strategies that can be used immediately to address a variety of child-rearing challenges and problems. He is currently a case worker in Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health.

Nancy Ver Steegh—Nancy is a tenured Professor of Law at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. She is currently serving as Vice Dean of Academic Programs. She has been teaching since 1998 and is a mediator and Rule 114 neutral. Prior to teaching, Nancy practiced as a legal aid attorney in Illinois representing battered women. She is also a licensed social worker in the state of Minnesota. Nancy is a primary trainer in the state GAL Program domestic violence training. She recently served as reporter for the Judicial Branch's Joint Physical Custody Study Group. She teaches Family Law and an Advanced Seminar on Domestic Violence as well as several other courses.

Steve Vonderharr—Steve is a Unit Supervisor in the Child Safety and Permanency Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The Child Safety and Permanency Division works with counties to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to intervene when child maltreatment occurs. The division oversees early intervention services, adolescent services, emergency and transitional housing for homeless youth, family preservation services (including crisis nurseries and services to minor parents), child protection services, out-of-home placement (including foster care), Indian child welfare and adoption. His unit focuses on transition to adulthood and homelessness.

Erin Walsh—Erin Walsh is a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker who has addressed a wide range of audiences on topics related to media's impact on children, families and communities. She has presented to youth groups as well as adults and professionals. She has worked at the Institute for over five years and is a principal architect of the MediaWise movement. In 2003 she organized a nationwide video game awareness and accountability campaign with twenty colleges and universities. In addition to her dynamic MediaWise workshops Erin has special expertise in body image and the media, adolescence and youth development, and video game violence. Erin currently lives in Minneapolis, MN and is a passionate advocate of the MediaWise movement!

Jacque Wilson—Jacque Wilson is the Urban Office Coordinator for the Bois Forte Urban Office in Minneapolis. Jacque is a cultural expert with many years of experience working with children and families. She serves as the cultural expert on Native American child rearing practices and

domestic customs for the state GAL Program ICWA training program, a training program required of all Minnesota GALs who work on ICWA cases. Jacque is a gifted storyteller and uses family and community stories as well as practical information to help GALs understand Native American families and their customs.

SILENT AUCTION

After past years' tremendously successful and popular silent auctions, we will once again be holding a silent auction to provide cash awards to conference attendees. As in past years, we are expecting baskets, gift certificates, handmade items, and various other desirable items to be provided by guardians ad litem, individuals, groups, and business owners. Items will be available for viewing in the Events Center Grand Ballroom throughout the conference. Bidding will open during the morning on Thursday, April 2, and close after the morning break on Friday, April 3, at 10:30 a.m. Top bidders will be announced at the lunch on Friday, April 3. **All payments for silent auction items will need to be made in cash.** ATMs and check cashing are available in the casino. Payment will be due by 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3. A drawing will be held to determine the recipients of the cash awards. The recipients will be announced at the end of the conference on Friday, April 3, at 1:30 p.m. The number of awards will depend on the total proceeds raised in the silent auction. Employee guardians ad litem are not eligible for cash awards. Please note that the Minnesota Judicial Branch is not involved in the silent auction. The silent auction is managed entirely by private efforts of guardians ad litem.

QUILT RAFFLE

American Indian Family and Children's Services (AIFACS) has contributed a beautiful, handmade quilt to be raffled off at this year's conference. The quilt will be displayed in the Events Center Grand Ballroom and participants may purchase as many \$2 raffle tickets as they would like. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the conference on Friday, April 3. Proceeds from the raffle will go directly to the Ramsey International Fine Arts Center Honor Chorus, a children's choir that will be performing at the Appreciation Reception on Thursday, April 2.

RAMSEY INTERNATIONAL FINE ARTS CENTER HONOR CHORUS

Ramsey International Fine Arts Center is part of the Minneapolis Public Schools. The school is located in south Minneapolis and serves grades K-8. To learn more about Ramsey, please visit the school's Web site at http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey_international_fine_arts.html. We are very fortunate to have the Ramsey Honor Chorus sing at our Appreciation Reception on Thursday, April 2. Students are selected for the chorus through auditions. Their grade levels range from 3rd through 8th grade. They perform under the direction of Mrs. Jane Mason. Proceeds from the quilt raffle will go directly to benefit the chorus and support its important projects. Don't miss the kids perform on Thursday!

CONFERENCE CLOTHES SHOPPING

There will again be conference clothes shopping opportunities for conference attendees. A clothing sales station will be set up in the Events Center. This year, an assortment of sweatshirts and other clothing items will be available for purchase. **However, only samples will be provided on site.** Orders will be placed directly with the clothing vendor, who will be on site to take orders. Payment must be made at the conference when placing an order and must be made by cash or check. The Minnesota Judicial Branch is not involved in clothing sales. Members of the conference planning committee will be managing clothing sales and arranging for delivery of all orders. Instructions will be provided at the time of purchase.

TRAVEL AND LODGING INFORMATION

This year's conference will be held at Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel Events Center, which is located in the south metro in Prior Lake, Minnesota, not far from the intersection of U.S. Highway 169 and County Road 83. Prior Lake is located in Scott County in the First Judicial District. The Events Center is located adjacent to the Hotel lobby. For directions, please visit the Hotel's Web site at <http://www.mysticlake.com/directions.html>. The Hotel/Events Center entrance and parking are located on the south side of the complex (far side as you are coming down County Road 83). Free valet parking at the hotel entrance will be available for all conference attendees.

Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel room reservations, and will receive a special conference rate of **\$70 plus 6.5% tax per night. To make your reservation, please call 952-445-9000 or toll free at 1-800-262-7799 and ask for Reservations.** Please give the representative the following information: identify yourself as participating in the MN Guardian Ad Litem Annual Conference, the date on which you want to reserve your room (Wednesday, April 1, or Thursday, April 2, or both), and please have your credit card available to hold your reservation. Please do not wait to call to make your hotel reservations, call as soon as possible. **THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING YOUR ROOM RESERVATION IS THURSDAY, MARCH 19. YOU HAVE NEARLY A MONTH TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BUT PLEASE DO NOT WAIT BECAUSE THE ROOM RATE WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED AFTER MARCH 19.**

Check in at the Hotel is guaranteed by 3 p.m., however, you can check at the front desk to see if your room is available sooner. Check out is by 11 a.m. There will be a morning break on Friday, April 3, from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. to give you time to check out. For questions or problems regarding making hotel reservations, please contact Shannon Campbell at shannon.campbell@courts.state.mn.us as soon as possible, so we may address the issue expeditiously.

NO ALCOHOL POLICY

Please note that Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel is an alcohol-free facility. **Alcoholic beverages are not served anywhere within the complex nor are they permitted in private hotel rooms in any form. All conference participants are asked to please honor this policy.** If Hotel or Casino staff find alcoholic beverages on your person or in your room, they may ask you to remove them and take them to your vehicle or otherwise dispose of bottles, cans, etc.

CONFERENCE FEE AND REGISTRATION

The conference fee for both days is \$50. The fee for Thursday only is \$30. The fee for Friday only is \$20. Payment must be made by personal check, cashier's check, or money order. There will be a \$30 charge for NSF checks that are returned. Checks should be made out to **STATE OF MINNESOTA**. Your fee must accompany your registration form. No refunds will be issued, if you cancel your registration or don't show. **ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND FEES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE END OF THE DAY ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27.** Please follow the instructions for completing the registration form that are on the form carefully and return it by regular mail or personal delivery to:

Meghan Knapp
Court Services Division
Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Ste. 105
St. Paul, MN 55155

If you know you will not be able to attend the conference after you have submitted your registration form, please let Meghan know via e-mail at meghan.knapp@courts.state.mn.us.

THERE WILL BE NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS THIS YEAR. Due to the current budget situation, the GAL Program must plan conference expenses carefully, therefore, **this year we cannot accept walk-in registrations.** We have extended the registration date as late as possible to accommodate some of the uncertainties in GALs' schedules. Please plan accordingly. Your cooperation in honoring the registration deadline and pre-registering for the conference will be very much appreciated.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

The entire conference (both days) qualifies for 12 GAL continuing education credits. The first day only qualifies for 8 continuing education credits. Attendance on the second day only qualifies for 4 continuing education credits. Certificates of attendance will not be issued this year, rather, there will be a form in your conference folder for you to

record your attendance. You will, then, submit your form to your Coordinator to verify your attendance at this conference. Information regarding CLE credits will be available at the conference.



Please note these important dates:

Hotel reservations deadline—Thursday, March 19

Conference registration deadline—Friday, March 27

Conference—Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3



**Minnesota Judicial Branch
State Guardian Ad Litem Program
2009 Annual Conference Registration**

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS FORM CAREFULLY.
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY.

Please complete all items on this form. This form is four pages. Your conference fee must accompany this registration form. You may pay your fee with a personal check, cashier's check, or money order made out to **STATE OF MINNESOTA**. Your registration form and fee are due no later than **Friday, March 27**. **Sorry, walk-in registrations will not be accepted this year.**

IF COMPLETING THIS BY HAND, PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.

PART I—BASIC INFORMATION

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number (s) _____

Please check the primary Judicial District in which you serve:

___ 1st ___ 2nd ___ 3rd ___ 4th ___ 5th ___ 6th ___ 7th ___ 8th ___ 9th ___ 10th

Please check if you are:

___ Volunteer GAL ___ Contractor GAL ___

___ Employee GAL ___ GAL Coordinator ___ GAL Manager ___ Other

Mailing Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

FAX Number _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Phone No. _____

PART II--SPECIAL DIETARY OR OTHER NEEDS

Check this box, if you need vegetarian meals. ☐

Do you have any other dietary needs that we should know about? Please explain _____

Do you have any other needs for accommodations? Please be sure to tell us about them _____

PART III—ATTENDANCE AND FEES

Please tell us which days of the conference you plan to attend. Check one and note the appropriate conference fee:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| Both days—Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fee: \$50 |
| One day only—Thursday, April 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fee: \$30 |
| One day only—Friday, April 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fee: \$20 |

PART IV—BREAKOUT SESSION CHOICES

Please tell us which breakout sessions you plan to attend. **PICK ONE FROM EACH ROUND OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS. CIRCLE THE NUMBER TO THE LEFT, NEAR THE LEFT MARGIN.**

J = Juvenile Court Focus

F = Family Court Focus

JF = Applicable to both

FDTC = Family Dependency Treatment Courts

ROUND ONE—THURSDAY, APRIL 2—11 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.—Circle one:

1. Breakout No. JF1—Hard To Believe: Munchausen By Proxy Syndrome (nonrepeating)—Dr. Carolyn Levitt
 2. Breakout No. JF2—Healing From the Trauma of Sex Abuse: Reunifying Sex Abuse Victims With Their Families—Timothy Wright
 3. Breakout No. JF3—They're Still My Family: Reunifying Physical Abuse Victims With Their Families—Vicki Nauschultz
 4. Breakout No. J4—The Hope of Family Preservation: What Should GALs Know?—Robert O'Connor
 5. Breakout No. JF5—GAL As Petitioner: Filing A CHIPS or Permanency Petition—Rights, Responsibilities, and Implications—Ann Ahlstrom and Judy Nord
 6. Breakout No. JF6—Restorative Parenting: Healing and Rebuilding Relationships in the Aftermath of Domestic Violence—David Mathews
 7. Breakout No. F7—Moving Toward Family Court Practice Standards: An Interactive Feedback Session (nonrepeating)—Mark Toogood and Andrea Niemi
 8. Breakout No. JF8—Preparing For and Testifying In Court for GALs: A Primer—Samantha Gemberling
- (Round One continues on next page)

9. Breakout No. JF9—Access to Information Review and Update: HIPAA Compliance and Beyond—Resa Gilats
10. Breakout No. FDTC10—Understanding the Role of the GAL in FDTCs—Judy Peterson

ROUND TWO—THURSDAY, APRIL 2—3 – 4:30 P.M.— Circle one:

11. Breakout No. JF11—Healing From the Trauma of Sex Abuse: Reunifying Sex Abuse Victims With Their Families—Tim Wright
12. Breakout No. JF12—They’re Still My Family: Reunifying Physical Abuse Victims With Their Families—Vicki Nauschultz
13. Breakout No. J13—The Hope of Family Preservation: What Should GALs Know? — Robert O’Connor
14. Breakout No. JF14— GAL As Petitioner: Filing A CHIPS or Permanency Petition—Rights, Responsibilities, and Implications—Ann Ahlstrom and Judy Nord
15. Breakout No. JF15— Restorative Parenting: Healing and Rebuilding Relationships in the Aftermath of Domestic Violence—David Mathews
16. Breakout No. JF16—Preparing For and Testifying In Court for GALs: A Primer — Samantha Gemberling and Marian Saksena
17. Breakout No. JF17—Access to Information Review and Update: HIPAA Compliance and Beyond—Resa Gilats
18. Breakout No. FDTC18—Understanding the Goals and Objectives of FDTCs—Brigid Murphy and Emily Schug

ROUND THREE—FRIDAY, APRIL 3—10:30 A.M. – 12 noon— Circle one:

19. Breakout No. J19—CHIPS 101: Building Upon Pre-service Training—Judy Nord
20. Breakout No. J20—The New Voluntary Placement Statute: Review and Implications for GAL Practice—Ann Ahlstrom
21. Breakout No. J21—Transition Resources and Best Practices For Youth Aging Out Of Foster Care—Steve Vonderharr
22. Breakout No. J22—Signs of Safety: A Solution and Safety Oriented Approach To Child Protection Casework—Dan Koziolk
23. Breakout No. JF23—Domestic Violence Update: The Wingspread Report—Nancy Ver Steegh and Liz Richards
24. Breakout No. JF24—Working With Families From Culturally Diverse Communities— Moderator: Glenda Rooney; Panelists: Evangelina Aguilar, Antuana Belton, Esie Leoso, Neal Thao, Hassan Ugas
25. Breakout No. JF25—LGBTQ Youth In Care—Mary McGowan
26. Breakout No. JF26—Native American Child Rearing Practices and Domestic Customs—Jacque Wilson
27. Breakout No. JF27—Defusing Difficult Situations—Mike Kutzke
28. Breakout No. FDTC28—FDTCs 101—Everything You Wanted To Know About FDTCs But Were Afraid To Ask—Dan Griffin and Jim Eberspacher

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS FOUR-PAGE
REGISTRATION FORM COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY, AND HAVE
WRITTEN LEGIBLY.**

**Please send your four-page, completed registration form with your personal
check, cashier's check, or money order for the appropriate fee made out to
STATE OF MINNESOTA to:**

**Meghan Knapp
Court Services Division
Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Ste. 105
St. Paul, MN 55155**

**PLEASE MAIL OR DELIVER YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE SO
THAT IT IS RECEIVED BY MEGHAN NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH
27.**

**Remember to make your hotel reservations on your own no later than Thursday,
March 19.**

SEE YOU IN APRIL!!!!